

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 13, 14, 20, 23 and 26 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-26 are now pending in this application.

Filing of Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

This amendment and reply is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 5, 7, 20 and 25.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-19, 21-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,065,441 to Yamamoto et al. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

As is clear from the invention according to presently pending independent claim 1, an image processor of a light beam scanning apparatus has a same number of common scan lines (i.e., data output lines) as the number of modulators (i.e., PWMs).

As described in paragraph [0031] of the specification, this feature is provided in order to process each of the plurality of control signals separately and simultaneously at each of the

plurality of modulators. Thus, by using the same number of PWMs to the plurality of control signals, the processing speed of the image data can be increased up to the highest possible scanning speed, so as to meet the processing capability of a laser driver.

On the contrary, in Yamamoto, as shown in Figure 1 of that reference, each of pixel data S_v provided from a D/A converter 9 is supplied to all of the modulators (7A and 7B). Thus, Yamamoto teaches that all of the PWMs process one pixel data. Accordingly, Yamamoto's device does not allow for a construction of an image processor in which each of a plurality of control signals are processed separately and simultaneously, as described in the specification.

In the present invention, one pixel data is processed by only one modulator, whereby multiple modulators process one pixel data in the system of Yamamoto.

Accordingly, Yamamoto's system is much different from that of the presently claimed invention, whereby Yamamoto's system cannot achieve the fast processing speeds in order to meet the processing capability of a laser driver, as are possible with the present invention.

Therefore, claim 1, as well as the other presently pending independent claims which have been amended in a somewhat similar manner to the amendments made to claim 1, are not anticipated by Yamamoto.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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